

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02608 191113Z

22-11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /086 W
----- 097184

R 191030Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4850
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
FOSIF ROTA
COMSIXTHFLT

CONFIDENTIAL NOUAKCHOTT 2608

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MMOL MOPS MR MO SS
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 2597

1. EXPATRIATE TECHNICIAN, WHO SPENT SEVERAL HOURS IN VICINITY OF NOUADHIBOU AIRPORT ON DECEMBER 17, REPORTS THAT TOWN WAS CALM DURING TIME HE VISITED. THERE WAS NO SMALL ARMS FIRE NEAR AIRPORT, BUT HE HEARD LARGER WEAPONS BEING FIRED IN DISTANCE. CURFEW REMAINED IN EFFECT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE NOT SEEN IN THE STREETS. TOWN WAS FULL OF TROOPS.

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02608 191113Z

2. BOTH AIR MAURITANIE F-27S WERE BACK IN NOUAKCHOTT MORNING OF DECEMBER 18; ONE IS UNDERGOING ENGINE REPAIRS. AIR MAURITANIE DC-3 IS STILL OUT OF COMMISSION AT ZOURATE. ONE OF AIR FORCE CESSNA 337S IS BACK AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT FOR REPAIRS. IT HAS A BULLET HOLE IN WING AND FUEL TANK. REPAIRS HAVE ALSO BEEN STARTED ON SECOND AIR MAURITANIE DC-3 WHICH WAS PUT OUT OF COMMISSION WHEN MILITARY TRUCK BACKED INTO WING (NOUAKCHOTT 2544, PARA 2). MOROCCAN C-130S ARE STILL ARRIVING AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT DURING NIGHT. EMBOFF ALSO OBSERVED FRENCH MILITARY PLANE LEAVING AIRPORT MORNING OF DECEMBER 18.

3. NOUAKCHOTT IS ADAPTING QUICKLY TO THE UNUSUAL MILITARY PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY. MOVEMENTS BY FOREIGN RESIDENTS REMAIN UNAFFECTED. EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF OR OBSERVED, HOWEVER, SEVERAL CASES WHERE ARMED MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN EXCEEDINGLY CARELESS IN HANDLING OF LOADED WEAPONS. TRAINING OF NEW MILITARY RE-CRUISTS APPEARS TO BE INVOLVING INCREASING NUMBERS OF TRAINEES.HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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